



Saudi Arabian Club marks National Saudi Day

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Rope Pull kicks off Homecoming Week activities

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First impression leads to life together

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UTM football heads to SEMO Sept. 28

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# the pacer



September 25, 2013

Independent voice of the University of Tennessee at Martin

Volume 86, Issue 3

## Alumnus plays major role in pivot project

**Malorie Paine**

Managing Editor, Print

Throughout the course of the past few months, Inco Ag Irrigation has worked in part with several other companies to bring new technology to UTM.

The Reinke Electrogator II, a pivot irrigation system, officially began running on the UTM Farm on Tuesday, Sept. 9. The donation of the system will allow UTM Agriculture students the opportunity to achieve hands-on experience in a wide variety of aspects.

"The unit that we have is a GPS-equipped irrigation unit; it is a very technologically advanced unit," said Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, interim chair of the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources.

Because UTM's farm is used as a teaching farm, the addition of the pivot will be able to provide a new means of learning for a variety of students and majors within the department.

"Our students get to understand how [the pivot] works; it works really well with understanding about precision agriculture and understanding about the technologically advanced nature of agriculture," said Mehlhorn.

The pivot will be used as a tool

in several courses taught in the Agriculture Department.

"[The pivot] will be incorporated into plant science courses; it will [also] be used in agriculture engineering technology courses. We have a new course on precision agriculture, so [the system] will certainly be a piece of that class for sure. I'm sure all the plant science classes will use it," Mehlhorn said.

Because the system is so much more advanced than anything UTM students have been exposed to in the classroom, the pivot will be able to increase students' knowledge base.

"It is really high tech so it does have a great teaching aspect to it and that is the exciting piece of it. It will improve what our students know how to do," Mehlhorn said.

The pivot is set up on a wireless system so students can also see how technology is advancing in the field.

"The unit also runs on a wireless subscription service. We can take a class out and show them how you can turn it on or off with your cell phone or how I can change it and make it do something different and have it report back to me," Mehlhorn said.

When Chuck Doss, co-owner



Photo Credit/Reinke



Pacer Photo/Malorie Paine

of Inco Ag Irrigation and Inco Well Services, decided on UTM, there were a few reasons backing his decision.

"I'm an alumnus, my sister



Pacer Photo/Malorie Paine

is an alumna, my brother is an alumnus, my wife is an alumna, my dad is an alumnus, Martin has meant a lot to me and my

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## Homecoming Week events begin Sept. 30

**Lauren Kisner**

Staff Writer

Every year at UTM, organizations work together to host one of the university's biggest events – Homecoming Week.

The theme for this year's Homecoming event is "The Roaring '20s." The week begins Monday, Sept. 30, with Rope Pull, followed by Lip Sync, Pyramid, Quad City and, of course, the Homecoming football game.

All of these events are open to the public and draw a large

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# Viewpoints

## EDITORIAL

### The Pacer asks readers about foreign languages

At UTM, we have foreign language programs from all over Europe ... and Japan.

Despite the diversity of the language programs at UTM, they all have one thing in common: UTM students either love them or hate them.

Naturally, those who love language classes will look for any reason at all to apply what they've learned to everyday life, and those who hate them will spend the rest of their lives carefully avoiding foreign languages, perhaps even forgetting some English just to be safe.

That being said, we extend to

you this question: why all the love/hate? Why does the notion of being able to talk to a non-English speaker either fill you with glee and anticipation or fill you with fear and confusion?

Luckily, we've gathered enough opinions on the matter here in Viewpoints, so at least this isn't a rhetorical question. And, interestingly enough, our contributors' responses to this question are not what you would expect. Or at least not what the editor expected.

Honestly, we at *The Pacer* aren't exactly divided on the subject of language. We've all had to take

them, and for the most part we don't plan on looking back.

However, that doesn't mean we are against the teaching of foreign languages, nor does it mean that no one at *The Pacer* likes studying language. It simply takes a lot of time, especially now that we're all adults and new information doesn't exactly stick with us like it used to.

Furthermore, when would we be able to practice the language being studied? Do you know any French or German people you can talk to on a daily basis? Well, for the smarty-pants that said yes, we must remind him or her

that the majority of Americans don't.

On top of that, America is an enormous country in which the majority of people speak English. An American can travel thousands of miles from home and not even have to change languages. Why should an American be considered less intelligent for not knowing something that isn't inherently practical in the U.S. anyway?

Boy, all this excitement and we haven't even gotten to the submissions yet. Can you even imagine what they'll have to say?

## COLUMN

### UTM's lack of a Latin program is disappointing

**Malorie Paine**

*Managing Editor, Print*

Although my major has not required me to take a foreign language, I was really hoping I could have continued studying Latin while in college.

Unfortunately, UTM doesn't offer this language as an option. While UTM offers courses in five languages, Latin is certainly not one of them. I have found this rather upsetting throughout my time spent at UTM.

I took Latin in high school and fell in love with the language; I was hoping to continue growing my love for and knowledge of Latin outside of high school.

While I understand Latin is a dead language, meaning it is no longer spoken, and may appear pointless to some, I believe Latin is an essential part of the languages spoken today. Almost all spoken languages



Pacer Graphic/Alex Jacobi

evolved from Latin; because of this I believe it is important to understand the language itself.

Without Latin, we probably wouldn't have many other languages to choose from.

I find it disheartening that UTM doesn't offer at least a few courses in the language. I'm not asking for an entire major or even minor in Latin, but at least having the opportunity to

take a few courses would have been nice.

Yes, I understand that I could continue to study the language on my own outside of school, however as a student I would very much appreciate an expert in the field helping me advance in my understanding of the language.

I understand five languages may seem like a decent variety, but to me it seems rather limited. Not to offend any person that studies one of the offered foreign languages, but I don't honestly care to learn any of the languages currently offered at UTM. I decided to take other courses where I could have taken a foreign language simply to avoid the offered languages. I do wish Latin were offered on campus.

While I appreciate the fact that UTM does offer five languages, I only wish my favorite language was an option. Perhaps in the future Latin will be offered.

## the pacer

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This newspaper is free in single copy and printed biweekly on Wednesdays during the semester. Our press run ranges from 2,000 to 5,000 copies depending on the edition. The University of Tennessee at Martin earmarks \$3.60 per enrolled student to pay for staff salaries and overhead costs of running our office. The cost of printing the newspaper is covered by advertising revenue.



# Viewpoints

## COLUMN

### Studying abroad: Experiences and how language helped

**Joel Sissman**  
Staff Writer

“Why did you decide to go abroad?”

That is a question that I have heard numerous times since I first decided to do just that several years ago. After coming back from a year in Japan, I have given that very question a lot of thought, and I think it’s finally time that I share my experiences and offer people a different way to look at language.

So first off, why did I even go abroad? The reason I went is very simple, really. Before I even set foot on the UTM campus, I had always wanted to do something different with my life and figured going aboard for a year would definitely be a way to do that. I didn’t really have a plan at that point, merely a dream to do something more.

“But why Japanese, isn’t that hard?”

That is another question I have heard repeatedly. Back in high school, I had always been a casual fan of anime or other Japanese shows, and would usually watch some when I was bored and wanted to skip out on homework. But after waiting forever for the subtitles to come out and even

longer for the English dub, I decided to take up Japanese.

I’ll admit, at that time it was hard. Hiragana, Katakana, the vocabulary and don’t even get me started on the Kanji/characters. But after a while I found myself drawn into the language, as if something in me was resonating with the language and the culture that I was steadily learning about.

“How was it abroad?”

Well, the first time I went to Japan I found that even though I still had a ways to go with the language, as I still was a complete novice at the time, I was truly in love with the culture. The people there were nice and helpful, and the people in the international office were always there with a smile and could talk to you if you didn’t understand something.

The second time I was there was even better as I had a slightly better mastery of Japanese and I knew my way around. Granted, I got lost once trying to take some friends back home, but that’s a different story. The truth of the matter is, it was the greatest experience of my life, both good times and bad. I truly did find my home there, and I will go back, one way or another.

I’m not here to tell you that you have to go abroad; despite my rambling, I am trying to give you

Japanese Alphabet ( Katakana Symbols )						
ア a	エ e	イ i	オ o	ウ u		
カ ka	キ ki	ク ku	ケ ke	コ ko	サ sa	シ shi
ス su	セ se	ソ so	タ ta	チ chi	ツ tsu	テ te
ト to	ナ na	ニ ni	ヌ nu	ネ ne	ノ no	ハ ha
ヒ hi	フ fu	ヘ he	ホ ho	ヤ ya	ユ yu	ヨ yo
マ ma	ミ mi	ム mu	メ me	モ o	ラ ra	リ ri
ル ru	レ re	ロ ro	ワ wa	ヲ wo	ン n	

Graphic Credit/importanceoflanguages.com

an idea of what it was like abroad, but you don’t have to take my word for it.

I have a question for the readers now: why don’t you see for yourselves? Don’t be afraid to try different things and see new places. I won’t get on my soapbox; we would be here all day. But what I will tell you is try picking up a language one of these days and see where it might lead you to in life.

## COLUMN

### Learning foreign languages while young raises cultural understanding

**Bradley Stringfield**  
Managing Editor, Online  
Sports Editor

In a country that has often tried to name English as the official language it seems that some people have waged an unofficial war against other languages. But one has to wonder if the implementation of foreign languages at an earlier age would reduce these hostilities and possibly even help our relationships with other cultures.

The United States has long been

known as an extremely ethnocentric country, which essentially means that we as a nation believe that we’re better than you because we say so, and if it comes from America it’s better ... because it’s American.

While this idea is generally applied to products, it is often applied to language as well. In 2009, the U.S. Census showed that 77 percent of the United States spoke English in the home. The data also showed that the only other language that was remotely close was Spanish, which totaled 12 percent.

Some people see that and think, ‘See? English is better.’

This thought has a lot to do with why this country is not as willing to start teaching its youth languages other than just English at earlier ages. Most schools don’t start teaching any foreign languages until high school. By then it’s just a hoop that students must force themselves to slowly crawl through to get to graduation day.

Currently, there are no foreign languages that are a part of the core curriculum that schools teach K-12.

However, that will soon change. Starting in the 2014-15 school year, Tennessee will fully adopt the new Common Core State Standards, which includes the teaching of foreign languages in kindergarten. If a student grows up learning more than one language, there is a good chance that they will have a better understanding and appreciation of the cultures surrounding that language.

For a country that once prided itself on being a melting pot of cultures, it seems now that the

country does more to mold us into shapes than it does to encourage us to melt with these other cultures. The problem with Americans accepting foreign languages into their country is only a small portion of a much bigger problem: the lack of this country’s acceptance towards other cultures.

While teaching students other languages at an early age is only a small step towards solving much larger problems, it is a step that would slowly start the process of solving these much larger issues.



# News



(From left) Saad Alsubaie, Co-President of the Saudi Arabian Club Naif Alnammi, Abdulrahman Alnami, Abdullah Alazzam, Mohammed Alyousef, Nawaf Althelath, Abdulaziz Aldawood, Mohsin Aleirani, Raed Algheshiaian, Yousif Aldossary and Absulrahman Alhathal celebrate Saudi National Day by showing students pieces of the Saudi Arabian culture. | **Pacer Photo / Alex Jacobi**

## Saudi Arabian Club shares culture with students

**Alex Jacobi**

*Executive Editor*

Members of the UTM Saudi Arabian Club celebrated Saudi National Day on Monday, Sept. 23, outside Gooch Hall by giving students education on the Saudi Arabian culture.

The table the group set up included a station where students could receive their names in Arabic, along with stacks of informational handouts. Several at the table were dressed in traditional

Saudi Arabian dress.

The club was established last year, but the current president, Abdullah Alnasser, and co-president, Naif Alnammi, hope to build it more this year with new members.

"We are trying to give something back to the community of campus since it has given so much to us. We're trying to bring other cultures to the campus, since America is supposed to be the melting pot," Alnammi said.

Alnammi said that, by

educating people, he and other club members hope to give people a clear picture of Saudi Arabia.

"We're trying to remove the superstitions and show the real picture of Saudi Arabia," Alnammi said.

In the future, the group hopes to plan an event for Eid al-Adha, a holiday celebrated by Muslims honoring Abraham for following God's command in sacrificing his first-born son. The club hopes to honor the day in October by showing

students how those in Islam would celebrate.

"[Eid al-Ahda] is a celebration we have in Islam. We get together with the whole family, sitting together [and] having breakfast, lunch and dinner. [For the event], we [hope] to reserve a room [and] show exactly how we celebrate it like in my country, serving Saudi food," Alnammi said.

Along with educating the campus, the club hopes to create an opportunity for students from Saudi Arabia to

connect with one another and get involved.

"Everybody can get involved [with the club]. We basically try to be a Saudi home over here. ... [We help others] try to avoid homesickness," Alnammi said.

As a new organization, the club is still planning for activities to be involved in and hopes to implement those plans as the year unfolds.

"We do have many plans and activities to add to the campus," Alnammi said.



# News

## NSE offers opportunities to study in other places

**Amber Sherman**

*Spirit Writer*

The National Student Exchange is a program that allows UTM students to attend another campus in the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands or Canada while still paying tuition at UTM.

This program offers students a chance to broaden horizons, explore different cultures within the country, take classes in their major or minor not available at UTM and explore possible graduate schools.

Over 30 students representing every college on campus have applied for the programs, and 23 students have participated in the exchange since the program began in 2004.

This year, one Secondary English major is currently spending the academic year studying at the University of Virgin Islands, St. Thomas. Another student is planning to exchange to California State University, Monterey Bay in the spring. There are four students from other campuses at UTM.

"This is the first time we've had more people coming in than

going out and it's exciting because I think they're starting to explore our excellent programs, such as natural resource management, animal science, and psychology," UTM's NSE Coordinator Melanie Young said. "I've had as many as eight or nine apply and as few as three."

In the past, UTM students have attended campuses from Alaska to Massachusetts. Another opportunity NSE offers is an RA exchange. A student who is an RA at UTM can apply and be hired as an RA at another participating university.

"I had a student do an RA exchange to Washington State. It was a terrific experience for her because she learned to stand on her own two feet and it was not easy. If you have never been away from home, this is a great opportunity to venture out, stand on your own two feet and have an excellent experience that enhances your resumé," Young said.

UTM is a Plan B university. Plan B means that the home university, UTM, handles the financial aid and tuition. Books, meal plans and room and board are paid directly to the host university.

"I will be the first to tell you, I was absolutely terrified. I had no idea what made me want to go to a new city, literally a thousand miles away from everything I've grown up knowing, without any of my friends or family. I told a lot of people I went to the west for Spanish influence but, honestly, I just wanted to get away. In a way, I tested myself. I wanted to see if I could do it. I can now look back at it and say 'I did that! I did that on my own!' Maybe it's a pride thing, I don't know. But I think I went that far because I was scared. I've always told myself that even if something scares me, I'm going to at least try. I signed up for it on a whim and it was the best decision I've made," said Anna Tankersley about her experience.

More information about the program will be available in workshops to be held the first week of December. Dates and times will be emailed to students and listed on the UTM NSE Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/UTM.NSE](http://www.facebook.com/UTM.NSE).

Students can direct any questions to Melanie Young at [nse@utm.edu](mailto:nse@utm.edu) or visit her office in 258 Clement Hall, Student Success Center.

## Organization hoping to help veteran in need

**Malorie Paine**

*Managing Editor, Print*

The Skyhawk Veteran Association is looking for a handicapped veteran who needs a ramp installed at their home.

"We've got a couple of veterans who need handicap access that we've been told of," said Skyhawk Veteran Association President Michael Cochran.

When the association first organized on campus, Cochran said members tossed around the question of what kinds of things they wanted to do. One of the members mentioned hearing about a disabled veteran or a disabled widow of a veteran who needed help with a ramp. Cochran said the group is still working on identifying the best candidate for a ramp.

The organization has been in the planning process of learning how to install a ramp for about a year. They want to make sure any work they do is in line with all building codes.

"Right now we're going through the process of getting it designed to make sure we fall within the specifications and building codes; we want to make sure it is good and solid and does all that it is supposed to do," Cochran said.

Although the process has been in the works for a while, the organization is dedicated to seeing the project through. The group hopes to have the project complete by the spring semester.

"We have been working on it for about a year, but we are still having issues, because there are classes and things that interfere a lot of the time. We haven't given up on it; we still want to do it," Cochran said.

The organization, for the most part, is composed of veterans. Some members are retired military while others are still active. Non-veterans also can join

the organization.

"We are open to non-veterans; we encourage people who support the military and veterans to participate," Cochran said.

The group's purpose is, in part, to help other organizations on campus and also to be a mentoring group for other veterans and active military members.

"Sometimes the transition between military life and civilian life or college life is kind of daunting," Cochran said.

Cochran said the group works with veterans' representatives in Obion and Weakley counties to cut out some of the "red tape" associated with the G.I. Bill and VA benefits. Cochran said the group is founded in camaraderie.

"We have these war stories – sometimes literally, other times figuratively, that we just want to sound off about – that people outside of the military wouldn't really understand," Cochran said.

"There are certain things that come up that military people deal with; we have information on how to deal with it."

The group also tries to help with events on campus any way they can. Recently, Cochran represented the group during Suicide Prevention Week through a panel discussion. Although the group is geared toward veterans – members of the military who are still active and those who support the military – Cochran said that any student can benefit from the Skyhawk Veteran Association.

"From my experience, there are a lot of students who have no real understanding of military; we can give them a little bit of understanding," Cochran said.

For more information on the ramp project or the Skyhawk Veteran Association, email Cochran at [skyhawkveteranassociation@gmail.com](mailto:skyhawkveteranassociation@gmail.com).



Photo Credit/eagereyes.org



# News

## Identity Theft: The Dos and Don'ts of the Digital Age

**Joel Sissman**

Staff Writer

These days, many students have smartphones that seem almost inseparable from their being. With this in mind, Scott Robbins, UTM's Director of Public Safety on campus, said that students should be wary of potential internet scams on campus.

"One reason why university students should be aware of identity theft is because they are more likely to be a victim of identity theft. [This is] because their credit is established and they don't check it as often as someone in their 30's or 40's would," Robbins said.

For those who do not know, identity theft is the act of someone assuming another person's identity for the purpose of taking credit or even other benefits in other person's name.

"They get all these credit card applications coming in the mail and thieves tend to follow them around, pick up that information real easy and get their credit card and their number," Robbins said.

Robbins said that identity theft is more common in this area than one might think.

"We've had four reports since 2006. I'm sure there's been more victims, but they probably reported to their hometown police departments and there are



Pacer Photo / Alex Jacobi

some people right now that don't even know they are a victim," Robbins said.

Recently there has been an increase in identity scams involving people using legitimate-looking, fake emails from trusted companies such as

the online paying service PayPal and Regions Bank, stating there's an account error and asking for the user's personal information, such as a credit card, to correct it.

"The UTM system has had some Regions Bank and PayPal issues that I think now they are

able to catch it before it goes out to the emails, but we've had some reports now of people getting those emails," Robbins said.

Robbins said that a student's smartphone is also a possible target for theft, as most phones use unsecure wireless networks

and keep personal information, such as pin numbers that people can easily access if the phone does not have a password.

"[A cell phone is] one of the places they'll first look," Robbins said.

What can be done about this, however, is surprisingly simple. One thing that students can do to protect themselves is to keep their driver's license and their social security cards separate and limit the use of buying anything online to a personal computer. Things such as approvals or deactivated credit cards should be shredded due to personal information they contain. Students should be mindful of what companies say on the phone or email as well.

"If they're legitimate they're not going to ask you for information that they should already have," Robbins said.

If a student has become the victim of identity fraud, he or she is advised to contact the affected company's fraud department. There is also a 1-800 social security fraud hotline number for compromised social security: 1-800-269-0271.

"File a report with your local police department, and keep records of everything you've done," Robbins said.

You can also contact Robbins at [sdrobbins@utm.edu](mailto:sdrobbins@utm.edu).

## Miss UTM scholarship information revealed

**Tammy Jo Stanford**

Guest Writer

On Monday, Sept. 16, an informational meeting was held in the UC for young women interested in competing in the Miss UTM Scholarship/Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival pageants.

This year's event will be held on Oct. 26, on the UTM campus. The application deadline has been set for Wednesday, Oct. 16.

Scholarship money is awarded to the royalty of the pageants, as well as prizes and gifts from local businesses.

Though these awards and scholarships are subject to final confirmation, the Miss UTM Scholarship prizes include \$1500 for Miss UTM, \$500 for the first runner-up, and \$250 for the second runner-up.

The scholarship amounts for Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival have not been determined yet. Both winners

will receive the official Miss America preliminary crown and sash as well as compete in the Miss Tennessee pageant in 2014.

Current UTM students are eligible for either crown.

Although the two titles are named during the same pageant, the Miss UT Martin crown is only open to current UTM students. The Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival is for non-UTM students.

Executive Director of the

scholarship program Hollie Holt said that the pageant is divided into five phases of competition, including private interview, swimsuit, talent, evening wear and on-stage questions.

Young women interested in competing should be of high moral character, a high school graduate by June 30, 2014, a U.S. resident, a resident of Tennessee for at least six months prior to the pageant, be no younger than 17 on Jan. 28, 2014 and no older

than 24 by Dec. 31, 2014.

Young women competing must also have never been married or have had children.

Holt also provided prospective contestants with packets containing useful information about the pageant, as well as rules and guidelines pertaining to each.

For more information about this scholarship program, contact Holt at [hholt@utm.edu](mailto:hholt@utm.edu).



# News

## Owning a pet provides benefits for students

**Cameron Graham**

Research Writer

College can be a stressful time in a student's life, especially with many other obligations that must be met.

Physical or psychological discomfort is not rare amongst many students as they navigate through classes, work, studying and maintaining a social life.

Many forms of treatment, from counseling to a little rest and relaxation, can likely alleviate some of the stress, but there is an alternative that students may not be fully aware of – owning a pet.

Pets are common among many households, and this isn't for entertainment purposes

only. Many physical benefits come with the presence of cats or dogs. For students living alone, one advantage will be crucial.

"Pets are loyal and will watch the house while you are gone or alert you when someone is at the door," said Dr. Leland Davis, a veterinarian at Reelfoot Animal Hospital in Union City, Tenn.

Also,

unknown to some, the exposure of certain allergies from cats or dogs can strengthen the human immune system, as it becomes more adapted to these dangers. More so, mere contact with dogs has been proven to release serotonin and dopamine in humans, which are neurotransmitters related to positive behavior. Pets are also a great source of recreation, as they are playful creatures.

"Pets keep you active and provide a sense of responsibility," Davis said.

As some may already know, emotional benefits also

come with the company of pets. With hectic work and class schedules, some students aren't fortunate enough to come home to the company of others. However, pets are a great substitution for this problem.

"Spending time with a dog or cat is bonding, and that's what many of us need at times," Davis said.

Dogs and cats are happy creatures, and they tend to greet their owners, providing a sense of happiness to those who are lonely.

Though the purchase of a pet is likely a smart decision, students must be aware of the

responsibility that accompanies it. Different dogs need different foods, and cats can be selective when it comes to meals. Pets also require much attention and financial obligations.

One must be willing to put in the effort of maintaining a healthy animal in order to reap the benefits. Many college students tend to be on a budget, and owning a pet must be fit into that budget appropriately.

"It is a great reward if you take care of it, but if you neglect it, it can possibly [add] more stress," Davis said.





# News

## Student Recreation Center faces largest crowd in afternoons

**Courtney Pearson**

Staff Writer

When it comes to working out at the Student Recreation Center, many students utilize the center to get back in shape, especially as this new semester has kicked off and students wish to meet their personal fitness goals. However, many students enjoy working out in solitude and look for those moments that the gym is not crowded.

For those that want those less-crowded times, Gina McClure, Director of the Student Rec Center, said that early mornings and late nights are the best.

"Most people work out from around 2 p.m. until 8 p.m., but 6 p.m. is the busiest hour," said Gina McClure, Director of the Student Rec Center.

Students who frequently visit the gym agree with McClure, including senior Political Science major Ben Allen.

"4 p.m. to 6 p.m. is terrible. You should avoid that time when everyone is there," Allen said.

As for which times are the best, McClure had specific times to offer.

"7 a.m., 8 a.m., and 10 p.m. are the slowest," McClure said.

If a student is a bit of a morning bird, hitting the gym during these earlier hours may be the best option. Likewise, the later hours, such as 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. also frees up several machines and workout spaces; if a student is a night owl he or she may explore this option.

Although the Rec Center offers many amenities, the most popular feature seems to be the Fitness Center.

"The Fitness Center offers a wide array of strength training and cardio," McClure said.

The Fitness Center is the busiest between the hours of 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. So if a student is looking for a workout buddy, this



Senior Agriculture Engineering major Michael Gooch spots senior Health and Human Performance major Dexter Ridings during some Olympic style weight lifts. Gooch and Ridings are training for the 2014 Crossfit Games, which requires training for constantly varied, functional movements that are performed at high intensities. | **Pacer Photo / Mary Jean Hall**

may be a good time to visit the Rec Center.

There are always events and fitness classes available at the Student Recreation Center; the best way to figure out which feature and time works best is to put on those sneakers and swipe

## Pivot from Cover

has meant a lot to me and my family and I wanted to give back when I could," Doss said.

"I wanted to give the opportunity for agriculture students to work on pivots and for us to develop a relationship with them so that in the future if they go back to their family farm or are in the agriculture industry then they will know Reinke, they will know Inco Ag and Well Service and will be familiar with them."

The estimated overall cost of the donation was around \$100,000. Several companies joined in the donation process.

"It wasn't just [Inco Ag Irrigation] who donated. Of course, Inco Ag Irrigation which is the irrigation company, Inco Well Services donated the well, CAM Electric out of Union City donated all the electrical supplies and labor, National Pump donated the pump equipment for the well and Reinke donated the pivot itself," Doss said.

The addition of the pivot to the teaching farm is beneficial to not only students, but the university itself. With UTM being a production farm, the addition of the pivot will most likely increase

crop yields, says Mehlhorn.

"The biggest [benefit] for us at our teaching farm is the ability to do irrigated versus non-irrigated trial research for crops; in the past, we've only been able to do dry land or non-irrigated trials. These would be trials of corn, wheat, soybeans or anything else we are doing; this is going to add a huge component to us to allow us to do this ... hopefully it is going to lead to a lot of good success for us," Mehlhorn said.

"From a purely production agriculture standpoint, it increases our yields and that is a positive thing for us."

Doss says the donation would most likely not have been possible without the employees at Inco Ag Irrigation. Over the last year, Reinke set a goal for the company to sell at least 15 pivots; the company sold a total of 63 units.

"I would imagine that had a pretty good bit of influence on [Reinke's decision to donate]," Doss said.

Doss and Richie Cash co-own Ag Inco Irrigation. Doss, Cash, Jim Kelley and Richard Sprayberry co-own Inco Well Services.

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# News

## Homecoming from Cover

crowd every year. Friends cheer on friends, alumni have a chance to connect to current students and fraternities and sororities perform their talents.

"I anticipate a large turnout," said Charley Deal, Alumni Relations Assistant Vice Chancellor at UTM.

"I'm hoping to get as many alumni back as we possibly can, because I really want our students to have a chance to interact with them. And I also want our alumni to see the progression of our school. As for freshman students, all I can say is, speak to people. Just start by saying hello on the sidewalk."

Sharing an alma mater can be as important as sharing a creed. UTM Greek fraternities and sororities have entertained the student body for years in Homecoming Week events every night.

"All groups are not only participating but they are excited to participate," said Jared Anderson, Interim Greek Life Coordinator.

"You don't know what homecoming is until you see it for yourself. So, don't go home that weekend. You're here for a college experience, so make friends and connect. I'm hoping for a full stadium, since we had a great turnout the previous game."



## UTM Homecoming Sept. 30 - Oct. 6

### "A ROARIN' GOOD TIME"

Major events include Rope Pull, Pyramid, Lip Sync and Quad City.

Pacer Graphic / Sarah Martin

**Check out *The Pacer's* coverage of all Homecoming events on [www.thepacer.net](http://www.thepacer.net), or follow on Facebook and @thepacer on Twitter.**



# News

## HOMECOMING

### It's all-out war: Dig deep, pull hard

**Mary Jean Hall**

News Editor

Rope Pull has been a time-honored tradition at UTM for just over 40 years now, and this year 11 organizations hope to walk away with that coveted first place trophy.

Charley Deal, Director of Alumni Relations, keeps participant safety as a top priority. This is Deal's third year to oversee Rope Pull; originally, Campus Recreation coordinated the event.

"The rules are in place to help keep the participants safe," Deal said. "The last thing we want is for any of our Homecoming activities to cause bodily harm to participating individuals. If it's done correctly no one gets hurt."

Lauren Barber, a junior Agriculture Science Production major, pulls in the seven hole for Sigma Alpha. This is Barber's second year to pull. Her father also pulled when he was a brother of Alpha Gamma Rho at UTM.

"It's all about being right on the rope; there's so many things that can go wrong," Barber said. "Your spine should be lining the rope so you're less likely to pinch a nerve in your hip or lower back."

Since the late 1960s, Greek organizations have seen many changes to the rules for this extreme version of tug-of-war.

"Over the years it has transformed into the event that it is today," Deal said.

Originally Rope Pull started off with a pit in between the two competing teams.

"It was more of a tug-of-

war and the losing team got really wet," Deal said. "You can imagine what all was in that by the end of the week. I'm sure it was nasty."

Deal said that the competition changed from a pit to the individual holes in the mid 1980s.

The time limits have also decreased over the years. Teams used to pull for extended periods of time, but now fraternities have 20 minutes to pull and sororities have eight.

The time limit has actually only been changed once in the past decade, and that was for overtime.

"Rope pull is one of those traditional events that just draws in people on Championship Friday," Deal said. "To have that kind of following at a Homecoming, it really is a tremendous feat. We have schools all around the state and in the region that want to try to replicate what we've started here at UTM, and Rope Pull is one of those that they look at and go, 'this could work.'"

Middle Tennessee State University staff has talked with Deal about starting a Rope Pull event on their campus this year.

Rope Pull not only provides entertainment for students, faculty and alumni, but the participants gain valuable teamwork skills.

Blaine Shamp, senior Health and Human Performance major, is the captain of Alpha Delta Pi's Rope Pull team. She pulls in the first hole.

"In the first hole it's so crazy how you are so close to getting tape, but you don't reach out

See **Rope Pull** Page 11



### The University of Tennessee at Martin 2013 HOMECOMING SCHEDULE

#### Monday, September 30

4:00 pm Rope pull

By Pacer Pond

#### Tuesday, October 1

4:00 pm Rope pull

7:00 pm Lip Sync (Rain Backup- Thursday, 8 pm - Elam Center)

8:45 pm Homecoming Court Announcement

#### GREEK DAY

By Pacer Pond

Northwest corner Elam Center

Northwest corner Elam Center

#### Wednesday, October 2

4:00 pm Rope pull

#### ORGANIZATION DAY

By Pacer Pond

#### Thursday, October 3

4:00 pm Rope pull

7:00 pm PRSSA Womanless Revue

#### FACULTY AND STAFF DAY

By Pacer Pond

Watkins Auditorium

#### Friday, October 4

3:00 pm Rhodes Golf Center/Page Team Room Dedication

3:30 pm Rope pull Championships

5:00 pm Ed Jones Recognition Reception and Dinner

6:30 pm Volleyball Reunion

7:00 pm Volleyball Match

7:00 pm Soccer Match

7:00 pm Pyramid and Pep Rally (\$2 per person charge)

7:30 pm University Choirs Dessert Evening

#### BLUE AND ORANGE DAY

Rhodes Golf Center

By Pacer Pond

Paul Meek Library

Skyhawk Fieldhouse

Skyhawk Fieldhouse

Skyhawk Soccer Field

Elam Center

Fine Arts Building

#### Saturday, October 5

7:30 am Letterwinner's Breakfast and Hall of Fame Inductions

10:00 am Sorority Lodge dedication

10:30 am **QUAD CITY OPENS** featuring "The House Band"

11:00 am Football Team's Skyhawk Walk

12:30 pm Volleyball Reunion

2:00 pm Football game vs. Jacksonville State

5:00 pm Campus Recreation former employee reunion

5:30 pm Black Alumni Reception

5:30 pm Softball Reunion

7:00 pm Young Alumni Reception

7:00 pm NPHC Step Show

7:30 pm University Choirs Dessert Evening

Elam Center Concourse

247 West Peach Street

Quad by Meek Library

Graham Stadium

Graham Stadium

Student Recreation Center

University Center Ballroom

Bettye Giles Field

Opera House

Elam Center

Fine Arts Building

#### Sunday, October 6

10:00 am Walk in the Quad

10:30 am Homecoming Brunch

University Center



# News

## — HOMECOMING —

# Rope Pull: *The science behind the tape*

**Head/Eye placement:** Good technique for a puller includes keeping his or her head down on the rope. When the team needs to prepare for a hit the head coach may yell "eyes." At this point the team looks up at the coach for the signal.

**Shoulders:** Teams work to "pin it down" by pulling their shoulders back while they push their hips up. This allows each puller to lower his or her center of gravity, which in turn prevents "planeing." Planeing happens when a puller's shoulders turn over to the side. This is not allowed in competition since it can lead to an injury for the puller or the teammates.

**Hands:** Proper hand placement is key. Pullers spend countless hours practicing in order to develop muscle memory to pull on either the right or left side. If a puller trains on the right side of the rope, he or she will probably have a stronger right grip than left. Blisters are a common sight, especially if the rope gets ripped through the puller's hands.

**Slack:** Ideally the #10 hole is strong enough to keep tension by pulling in the slack. This puller loops rope under #9 in a hit.

**Back holes:** The powerhouse pullers of the team generally lie in the back holes. If the front holes are riding the rope, the back pullers might make hits until the front holes "get right" on the rope.

**Middle holes:** It takes strength, agility and proper stance from each puller to keep tension on the rope. A team can't do a big hit with slack on the rope.

**Front holes:** The pullers in the front holes spend most of their time riding the rope. They rely on the back to "hit 'em down."

**#1 hole:** Generally one of the smaller, more agile team members will take the front hole. The front hole controls the "swing" of the rope, and is traditionally the first puller to "fire out" during a hit.

**Padding:** Pulling rope hurts ... A LOT. In order to protect their ribs and other body parts, pullers use back braces and thick pads to cushion against the rope. Many pullers end up with broken bones and pinched nerves, so pads help. Ultimately better hand placement and being "right on the rope" can help prevent injuries.

**Rope:** This intensive game of tug-of-war wouldn't be possible without the 1 1/2" rope. Teams "get rope" by making hits. A team can get more rope by quickly "hitting" while the other team is in the middle of a pull.

**Tape:** Teams strive to "take tape." This happens when a team gets enough rope from the opposition for the #1 hole to touch the tape. At this point time is called and the team that took tape is declared the winner.

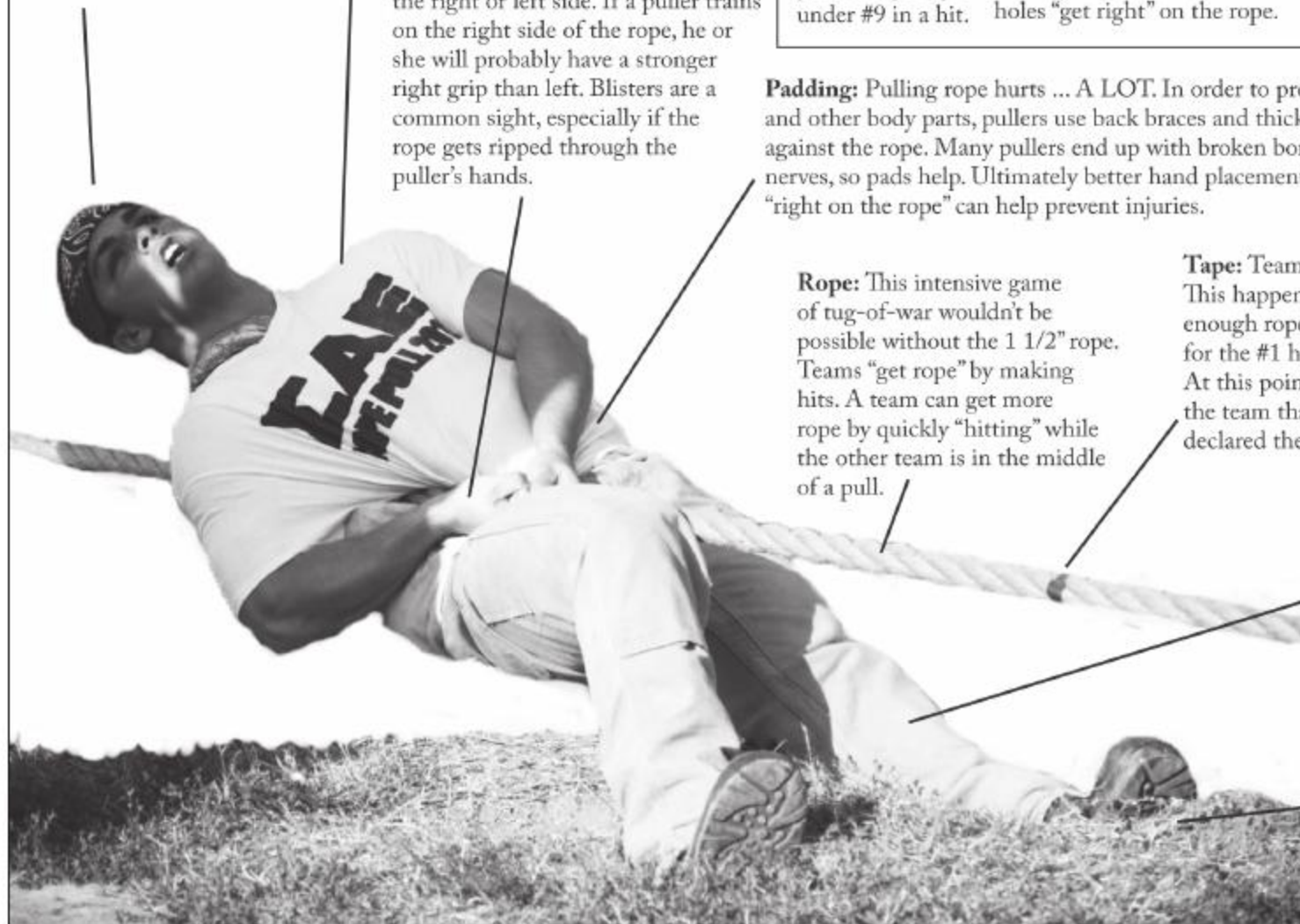
**Lock-out Leg:** This is the leg opposite to the side the member is pulling on. This helps the puller get up over the rope to keep the line straight.

**Chalks:** Also known as "holes," these give the puller much needed grip. Especially in wet weather, pullers may risk "blowing out" a hole. If this happens, there is nothing to push against to help keep tension on the rope.

### Coaches:

A team is allowed to have three coaches.

1. "Head coach" - This coach calls the hits for the team.
2. "Spotter" - This coach keeps an eye on what the other team is doing.
3. "Line coach" - This person generally runs alongside the team, and helps to keep the back holes informed.



Pacer Graphic / Mary Jean Hall

## Rope Pull from Page 10

and grab it at first because you work as a team," Shamp said. "It's all about the team because I don't get tape alone; our team gets tape."

ADPi finished in first place last year in the sorority division.

ADPi beat Sigma Alpha in the Championship round.

"Rope pull is my favorite time of year," Shamp said. "It's one of the hardest, most rewarding things I've done. We've won the last four years in a row, and

yeah, I'm feeling a little pressure as captain to bring home the trophy for the fifth year. But I have confidence in my team. We've been working so hard, and I know that, no matter the results, I'll be proud of us."

When a team is getting slammed with hit after hit, the crowd's support can make all the difference.

"There are no words to describe how it feels to have rope ripped through your hands. You

feel so defeated," Barber said. "If you have that crowd support and you have people cheering you on, your adrenaline gets pumping. Then you start doing the unthinkable."



# News

## — HOMECOMING —

# Four alumni to be honored at Homecoming

**Joe Lofaro**

*University Relations*

Four alumni will be honored as part of homecoming activities, Sept. 30-Oct. 6.

The award recipients will be recognized during the homecoming game against Jacksonville State at 2 p.m., Oct. 5, at Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

This year's award recipients are:

Cade Cowan will receive the Outstanding Young Alumni Award, given in recognition of outstanding achievement in his chosen profession. The recipient of this award must not be more than 40 years of age.

Renee Bailey Iacona will be presented with the Outstanding Alumni Award; this award given to an alumnus or alumna in recognition of outstanding achievement in his or her chosen profession.

Jim and Janet Ayers will receive the Chancellor's Award for University Service, given in recognition of outstanding service to UTM.

Cowan is a 1994 summa cum laude graduate of UTM. A native of Gordonsville, Tenn., he attended UTM as a University Scholar majoring in Economics in the School of Business. Additionally, he served as Student Government Association (SGA) president, vice president of Kappa Alpha Order, and donned the Pacer Pete mascot uniform for two years. At graduation, he was awarded the Paul and Martha Meek Achievement Award.

Currently, Cowan is a managing partner of the leadership development practice for Pivot Leadership, a consulting firm that equips senior leaders of

Fortune 100 companies with the skills to more effectively execute their organizational strategies. During his career, he's worked in 31 countries on five continents with leaders from such companies as Microsoft, Walmart, Johnson & Johnson, Aetna and HP.

In addition to his degree from UTM, Cowan holds a master's degree in Organizational and Social Psychology from Columbia University in New York city.

Iacona graduated from UTM in 1991, with a bachelor's degree in Biology as a University Scholars graduate. She served as a resident assistant, biology laboratory instructor, held many leadership positions in Alpha Delta Pi, and was given the Greek Woman of the Year Award by National Panhellenic Council during her senior year.

After UTM, Iacona pursued higher education degrees at Vanderbilt University where she received her PhD in Pathology in 1998, with a thesis on the "Genetic Susceptibility and Carcinogen Metabolism in Breast Cancer Molecular Epidemiology" and a master's degree in public health in 1999.

Iacona currently lives outside Philadelphia, where she lives with her husband Nick Iacona. She has worked at AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals since 2001, initially serving as a statistician in the oncology biostatistics group and has developed through the company to now serve as the head of the Alliance and Operations Office for the global biometrics function.

Iacona has continued to serve ADPi since graduating from UTM; she now serves

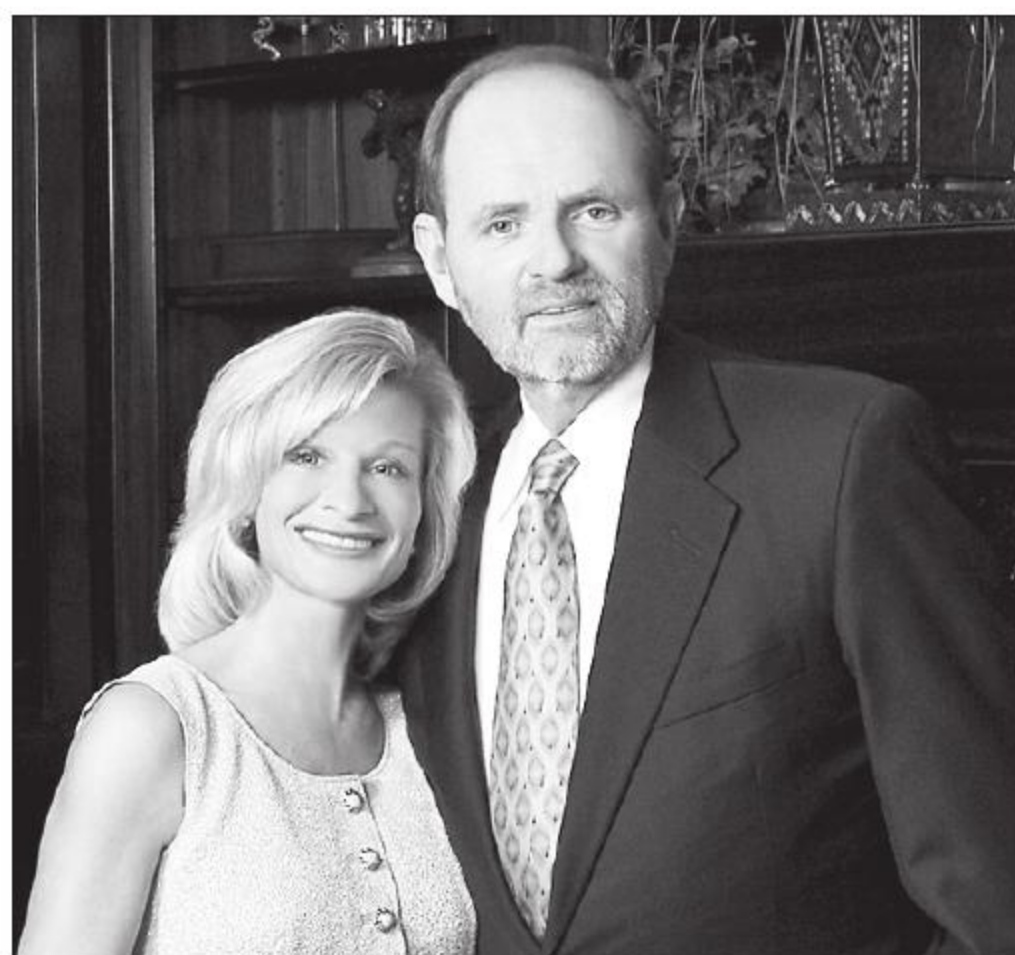
on the Grand Council as the international vice president of alumnae membership overseeing the strategic development of the more than 220,000 alumnae members. She has started a leadership endowment scholarship at UTM and is currently serving on the steering committee for the ADPi chapter house at UTM.

Because of their commitment and vision, Jim and Janet Ayers, along with the City of Parsons and Decatur County, the Tennessee Legislature approved a \$200,000 annual recurring state appropriation (effective July 2006) for the establishment of operation of the UTM Parsons Center.

The Ayerses also made a leadership gift of \$1 million to construct the UTM Parsons Center.



Cade Cowan will be presented with the Outstanding Young Alumni Award during Homecoming. | **Photo Credit / University Relations**



Jim and Janet Ayers will receive the Chancellor's Award for University Service, given in recognition of their outstanding service to UTM. | **Photo Credit / University Relations**



Renee Bailey Iacona will receive the Outstanding Alumni Award for her achievement in her profession. | **Photo Credit / University Relations**



# News

## — HOMECOMING —

# 10th annual Quad City expected to be largest ever

**Joel Sissman**

*Staff Writer*

"If you can imagine a circus, a family reunion [and] a midway of a fair ... all of that in one spot," said Charley Deal, the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Alumni Relations.

Quad City offers just that, Deal says. Quad City is a student organized event that offers faculty, students and alumni a place to come together as a family once a year.

"We have reunion tents, live music featuring The House Band, a kids' carnival, sorority village, a petting zoo [and] a rock climbing wall; there's something for everybody," Deal said. "That's what we wanted ... to create a fun family atmosphere for our alumni coming back to campus."

This year is no different. Quad City, beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 5, is an annual event held the Saturday morning prior to the start of the football game. Fall 2013 marks the 10th anniversary of Quad City with over 70 student organization tents and events, including "Hawk Walk," where UTM's band is lead around the Quad by the football players and Homecoming award winners.

"We're anticipating the largest crowd ever; we will have about 6,000 people in the Quad that day. [The event] is so spread out; it looks great to have that many people back on campus," Deal said.

However, Homecoming isn't all about fun. Deal says Quad City is about celebration and renewal of the bond between students and their school.

"I think for the current students it's a time that they are able to come out and be with friends, create that bond with their university."

Quad City also acts as a network or springboard for current students to meet with alumni in their field. This allows students to discover not only what they need to get into the job market, but also make a connection with someone in their chosen career field.

"What I hope that happens is [students] involved with a student organization or with their college tent meet alumni. You really need to have a network of individuals that you can rely on to be successful in your job search," Deal said.

This year's theme is based off the Roaring Twenties. This theme also marks a coming of age for UTM as it opened in



Tents have begun to "pop up" in preparation for Quad City next Saturday. | **Pacer**  
*Photo / Mary Jean Hall*

the late 20s when Hall-Moody closed its doors.

"A lot of our history, who we are today, started in the 20s," Deal said.

One of the main attractions this year will be a zip-line located outside the administration building, which stands around 40 feet tall and is sponsored by the Student Activities Council. Once students sign a waiver

form they can zip down the 250 foot track.

"[The zip-line] should give you a real good view, or as I call it the Skyhawks' view, of Quad City," Deal said.

Quad City and Homecoming are entirely student-organized events by the Undergraduate Alumni Council. Several different organizations come together to help organize and plan the events,

including Student Recreation and the SAC.

"It goes to show who we are ... we have a lot of small groups who really bond together well. That's what makes our university come together, it makes it more of a family atmosphere."

For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 731-881-7610 or via email at [alumni@utm.edu](mailto:alumni@utm.edu).

# Lip Sync and Pyramid offer entertainment for all

**Lauren Kisner**

*Staff Writer*

The first event of the Homecoming week, aside from Rope Pull, is Lip Sync.

This event will be held behind the Elam Center near the Intramural fields. Lip sync, is in its essence, exactly how it sounds. Groups typically spend two weeks prior to Homecoming week choreographing routines

and lip-syncing to songs.

"Lip Sync is a great opportunity for all student organizations on campus to participate and come out and have fun. It is really a very unique thing," said Charley Deal, Director of Alumni Relations.

This year groups were not given a central theme. Each group was allowed to choose one word and develop a routine around the chosen word.

There are three categories for groups to compete in- sorority,

fraternity and open. Winners from each category will receive points that will be tallied on the final day of Homecoming week. The points will go towards the Overall Homecoming winners.

Lip Sync is one of several free events held during the week.

Pyramid will be held inside the Elam Center on Friday, Oct. 3. Although the event is similar in the fact groups perform choreographed routines, Pyramid is much different than

Lip Sync.

Pyramid, originally created as a competition for the residence halls, has been expanded into a competition for the entire campus. Pyramid is essentially a cheer competition.

Sororities and fraternities compete in their respective divisions for the top two places as well as Best of Show.

"There's a lot of work that goes into Pyramid each year," Deal said. "They spend a lot of time

practicing and making sure that they are staying safe."

Deal is expecting close to 2,500 people in the Elam Center Friday night during Pyramid.

Like with Lip Sync, points will be tallied and calculated into the Overall Homecoming award points.

Both Lip Sync and Pyramid are popular events among students on the UTM campus.



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# Arts & Entertainment

## Student Activities Council provides free entertainment

**Becca Partridge**

*Arts and Entertainment Editor*

The UTM Student Activities Council has planned a full month of activities for October, with multiple events happening weekly.

The SAC is an organization whose purpose is to provide students with free entertainment opportunities throughout each semester. A few favorite events of the UTM community are 9:09s, game tournaments, Humans vs. Zombies and weekly movies.

Jesse Kowalewski, the Executive Chair, said that there are several events to expect from SAC during the October.

The annual Lip Sync Competition will be Oct. 1. The SAC is proud to be the host of this competition every year. Lip Sync will be held behind the Elam Center. It will begin around 7 p.m. There are 15 student organizations

registered to compete this year. The final event of Homecoming week, Quad City, will be Oct. 5. The SAC will have a tent in the Quad. The main event will be a zip line, as well as other novelties.

The first movie showing will be Oct. 6. The movie is "Scary Movie 5." Showings are at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. almost every Sunday in the Watkins Auditorium. This, like all other SAC events, is free to attend. There will also be free popcorn available.

A *Madden* 25 Tournament will be held Oct. 9. This is in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the *Madden* series. Registration will open at 6:30 p.m., and the tournament will begin at 7 p.m. There will be money prizes for the winners.

The second movie of the

month will be "The Iceman" on Oct. 20. As with the other events, showings will be at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. in Watkins.



A Poker Tournament will be held on Oct. 21. Registration will open at 6:30 p.m., and the tournament will begin at 7 p.m. Prize money will be awarded.

A Spoons Tournament will be held on Oct. 23. Registration will open at 6:30 p.m., and the games will begin at 7 p.m. There will be money prizes involved in this tournament.

On Oct. 24, the 9:09 Comedy Series will be held. The comedian is scheduled to be James Davis. Davis has been seen on Comedy Central, as well as MTV and BET. He regularly does comedy shows around the country.

The last movie scheduled for the month is on Oct. 27. It will be "Evil Dead." Showings will be 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

The week of Oct. 27 is also Human vs. Zombies week. The informative meeting is the night of Oct. 27. This has become an annual event that many UTM students participate in.

"It'll be the best week of your

life," said Kowalewski.

When it comes to the rules of the game, Kowalewski said that Human vs. Zombies is not a difficult game to learn.

"It's so easy, a freshman can do it," Kowalewski said.

A Pumpkin Carving and Costume Contest will be held Oct. 31. The pumpkins will be provided, and there will be money prizes for both categories.

The SAC never charges students to participate in events. They want to get students involved. SAC will post fliers around campus throughout the semester to inform students of activities. SAC tries to post fliers well in advance so students have time to arrange their schedules.

Students who are interested in joining the SAC can apply online at <http://utm.orgsync.com/org/sac/application>.

## Review: 'Riddick' entertains fans

**John Nicholson**

*Staff Writer*

*Riddick* is the third film in David Twohy's *Chronicles of Riddick* saga.

Starting with *Pitch Black* in 2000, and continuing with *Chronicles of Riddick* in 2004, audiences followed the exploits of Richard B. Riddick (Vin Diesel), outlaw, thief, murderer and antihero.

*Pitch Black* was an entertaining sci-fi/horror mashup that wore its R-rating proudly. *Chronicles of Riddick* is a tamer follow-up that lowered the rating in the hopes of extending the audience. I think the PG-13 rating on *Chronicles* and the fan

complaints that accompanied it are the only reasons we have *Riddick*.

As Riddick, Vin Diesel uses his *Iron Giant* voice and a pair of glowing contact lenses that allow him to see in the dark to hunt and kill mercs and monsters.

"I've been here before," he tells us, referring to the dangerous terrain where he's been betrayed and left for dead. The opening credits aren't half over before Riddick performs the first sign that he is a cool character — he strangles one of the flesh-eating creatures that inhabit the planet.

Twohy bucks the sequel tradition, working on the

smaller scale of the original. At times, *Riddick* hews so closely to *Pitch Black* that it feels like a remake. Once again, people are trapped on a hostile planet and don't know if the bigger threat is the planet's inhabitants or Riddick himself.

This time, Riddick is surrounded by two teams of bounty hunters, one of which wants him taken alive. The other prefers him dead because the bounty will be doubled. Neither team is any match for our macho antihero. They're even less equipped to deal with the monstrosities awaiting them once the planet gets dark and rainy.

Riddick squanders two

opportunities to elevate itself above standard fare. The first occurs early in the film, when the stranded Riddick learns to navigate his new home.

Twohy follows Riddick's routines in an excellent 25-minute sequence. The planet's landscapes are full of gorgeous details. The murderous CGI creatures Riddick fights are a bizarre mix of cleverness and cheesiness. Riddick also acquires a sidekick of sorts, who is a CGI-rendered, hyena-dog hybrid and the mercenary in the "take him alive" group, who Santana later calls a "dingo-dango thing."

The film also stars Former WWE superstar Dave Batista,

and a brief cameo by Karl Urban. I believe there should be more Urban than this. It's jam-packed with graphic violence, so those with weak constitutions need not apply.

*Riddick* is better than I expected, and it does provide a decent amount of fun for fans of the genre. Your enjoyment will depend on whether you're a fan of Diesel's character. While you won't need to see the prior installments to follow *Riddick*, I've a feeling you'll get more pleasure if you bring your own supply of *Riddick* love to the cinema.



# Arts & Entertainment

## Alpha Psi Omega gives opportunity to all in arts

**Ashley Marshall**

Staff Writer

Calling all Fine Arts majors and those who just love theatre, art, music and dance: UTM is proud to present the National Theatre Honor Society, Rho Gamma Chapter of Alpha Psi Omega.

"We are here to promote the arts, not just theatre," said Stephanie Klink, a senior Fine and Performing Arts major. Klink is the current president of the Rho Gamma chapter.

This society is not just for Fine Arts majors, but is open to all majors at UTM. Those who are interested can contact a member of the society, the president or the vice president. Cody Jarman, a junior Fine and Performing Arts major, is the current vice president and can be reached by email at [coddjarm@ut.utm.edu](mailto:coddjarm@ut.utm.edu).

Potential members will receive an invite once they have completed the point system.

"Potential members receive an invitation to join after they have reached 75 points. We do inductions at least twice a year," said Klink.

A potential member of the chapter can earn points in many ways, such as by attending workshops, taking upper division theatre and music classes or participating in a Vanguard Theatre production. Those who would like more information about earning points should contact Matt Caldwell, a senior Fine and Performing Arts



Some of the Alpha Psi Omega members paused for a picture after their weekly meeting. They meet every week on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. (Back row from left) Jonathan Fisher, Grace Carleton, Casey Williams, Christina Camper and Eric Brand. (Front row from left) Matthew Caldwell, Stephanie Klink and Cody Jarman | **Pacer Photo/Amber Sherman**

major, at [matccald@ut.utm.edu](mailto:matccald@ut.utm.edu). He is the current points officer.

The chapter is also interested in traveling for the arts.

"We actually took a field trip to go see 'Les Miserables' last week,"

said Klink.

Although the trips are primarily for Alpha Psi Omega members, other students may attend upon invitation.

The chapter just participated in

auditions on Sept. 16-17 for the upcoming Vanguard production "Fools" written by Neil Simon. It will be the first production to be performed in the newly renovated Fine Arts Building.

The club will be hosting several workshops to be announced in the upcoming months. For more information on Alpha Psi Omega, contact President Stephanie Klink at [stemklin@ut.utm.edu](mailto:stemklin@ut.utm.edu).

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# Features

## UTM UNLIMITED



Dr. David Coffey, professor of History and chair of the Department of History and Philosophy, is pictured with his wife, Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of Music and percussion coordinator, in the UTM quad. | *Pacer Photo / Sheila Scott*

## Romance blossoms from nurtured friendship

**Sheila Scott**

*Features Editor*

When properly nurtured, friendships and relationships can form quickly among those who have roots in Martin and UTM soil.

When it comes to those relationships, Dr. Julie Hill, associate professor of Music and percussion coordinator, and her husband, Dr. David Coffey, professor of History and chair of the Department of History and

Philosophy, know all about just how they can blossom.

Hill was born in Martin and has a deep connection with UTM. Her parents, C.T. Hill and Brenda Harrison Hill, are both UTM alumni, although it was called University of Tennessee at Martin Branch, or UTMB, at that time. The two met in 1960 while attending UTMB when Harrison's car broke down on University Street in front of the Administration Building. C.T. Hill gave Harrison a ride and

the couple later married and was blessed with two children: Charles and Julie. Charles Hill, like his sister Julie, is a UTM graduate; however, he is eight years her senior.

Hill's mother later became Dr. Baker's secretary in the business office, allowing Hill the opportunity to attend kindergarten on the UTM campus as one of the faculty children. Years later she once again attended school on the UTM campus, earning a

Bachelor of Music Education degree. She later earned a Master of Music degree in percussion performance, then went on to earn her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Ky.

After earning her doctorate, Hill returned to UTM, this time as a teacher. Soon afterward, Hill found that she and Coffey were being invited to several of the same households by a fellow colleague, Dr. David Carithers, associate professor of English.

Hill believes this may have been an intentional setup by Carithers and his wife. Carithers and Coffey were playing music together at the time.

"David asked, 'What are you going to do this weekend?' I said, 'I want to try and learn how to put in a koi pond in my back yard.' He said, 'That sounds interesting,' and he started coming over every day. One day

See **Romance**, Page 18



# Features

## UTM UNLIMITED

### Romance

from Page 17

it was pouring down rain and we were in the pond, in the mud bailing out water, trying to get the liner down. I just remember thinking that day, that this is not a normal guy. He's a super-nice, dedicated guy that would do this for a friend. He didn't even know me that well and he's been like that ever since," Hill said.

The couple did manage to put in a beautiful koi pond in the back yard of the 92-year-old house, originally purchased by Hill but now occupied by the married couple, in Union City, Tenn. Even now, Coffey continues to clean out the koi pond weekly. The couple has gone on to complete many more remodeling projects on the old house including turning the basement into a bar and contemporary band entertainment venue that is set up to be able to accommodate small concerts with seating up to 30 people. The couple enjoys a menagerie of animals at their home including: three cats and a fish indoors; a koi pond; three hummingbirds that are named Olive, Green and Red after their colors; a raccoon; and a bunny.

Hill is a low-fat vegan by choice. She enjoys growing things, swimming, skiing, cooking, learning foreign languages, traveling with her husband and Zumba. She is a certified Zumba instructor and until her recent hip surgery was teaching four classes per week. However, she suffers from congenital bilateral dysplasia, or shallow hip sockets, and will be cutting back on the Zumba in the near future.

Hill has been teaching at UTM for nine years. She teaches hour-long private percussion lessons to 18 music majors who specialize in percussion, conducts the percussion ensemble and teaches a variety of specialized percussion courses including pedagogy, repertoire, history and recording techniques.

In 2011, Hill was awarded the Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award and was awarded Drum Magazine's Percussion Ensemble of the Year.

She is involved in many other avenues of music besides just teaching music at UTM. She performs as a member of the band 27bstroke6. She plays in a percussion trio called the Caixa Trio. She is in a new Brazilian Choro group called Pseudo Choro. She also serves as Vice President of the Percussive Arts Society.

Hill has a CD out with the Caixa Trio called, "Commissioned Works." She also co-authored a book, with James Campbell, of etudes for multiple percussion called, "Music for Multiple Percussion: A World View."

She is currently working with Dr. Eric Willie on a project of percussion audition etudes that should be published in the spring of 2014 by Rowloff Productions. Hill hopes that many states will adopt the set of audition etudes and, as a result, music standards for young percussionists will become more standardized throughout the U.S.

Working to make a difference in the field of music and in the lives of the students at UTM is very important to Hill.

"Go to class, go to class and go to class. Value your education and know by attending UTM that you are working with some of the very best people in the business. Take advantage of that and learn for the sake of learning and your own future skill set and not for a grade," Hill said.

Coffey was born in New Mexico but grew up in Fort Worth, Texas. In his youth, his free time was mostly spent traveling with his two younger sisters, younger brother and parents, both journalists, exploring historical sites.

Coffey attended college at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, where he



Dr. Coffey helped Dr. Hill build a koi pond in her back yard before they were married, and now they get to enjoy it together. | **Photo Credit / Julie Hill**

completed his undergraduate, graduate and doctoral studies. While attending TCU, he spent a life-changing month in Oaxaca, Mexico, wrote his first book and edited an award-winning encyclopedia. He has always wanted to write a novel but has never found the time.

The writing gene is very strong in Coffey's family. There are many writers within his family including his maternal grandfather, his mother, his father and his brother. His first book was "John Bell Hood and the Struggle for Atlanta" based on his master's thesis. He also wrote "Soldier Princess: The Life and Legend of Agnes Salm-Salm in North America, 1861-1867" and "Sheridan's Lieutenants: Phil Sheridan, His Generals, and the Final Year of the Civil War." In addition he edited five major encyclopedia projects and co-authored another book. His latest project, which has a release

date in September, is a multi-volume encyclopedia of the Civil War. It will be the most comprehensive and accurate work to date on that period.

Coffey, who was awarded the 2012 Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award, has been teaching at UTM for 13 years. He teaches several courses in U.S. History, including the Antebellum Era, Civil War and Reconstruction, and the Gilded Age; Latin American History; Mexican History; and Military History.

He enjoys sports, working around the house, playing in The House Band and doing an Americano singer songwriter duo with Carithers, listening to a variety of music and traveling.

Coffey feels passion for his work and hopes that others will find that for themselves.

"Care! Your college experience is so precious. You need to make the most of it. Learn for the sake

of learning. Find your passion," Coffey said.

Go to the photo gallery "Romance Blossoms from Nurtured Friendship" at [www.thepacer.net](http://www.thepacer.net) to view more photos of Hill and Coffey.

Go to the video "The House Band Performs at The Looking Glass" at [www.thepacer.net](http://www.thepacer.net) to watch a video of The House Band's recent performance at The Looking Glass in Martin, Tenn.

Go to the video "The band 27bstroke6 performing 'The Fixx'" at [www.thepacer.net](http://www.thepacer.net) to watch a video of Hill performing with her band the 27bstroke6.

Go to the video "The Caixa Trio" at [www.thepacer.net](http://www.thepacer.net) to watch a video of Hill performing with fellow Caixa Trio members.

Go to the video "The UTM Faculty Steel Band performs Blondie's 'The Tide is High'" at [www.thepacer.net](http://www.thepacer.net) to watch a video of Hill conducting The UTM Faculty Steel Band.



# Features

## UTM UNLIMITED

# First impressions make lasting impressions

**Sheila Scott**

*Features Editor*

The first day of school, especially graduate school, is usually filled with not only the huge pressure of wanting to make a good first impression on the professors but also on fellow classmates.

Dr. Chris Brown, professor of philosophy, must have rose to the occasion and made quite a first impression on Merry Brown, lecturer in philosophy, on their first day of graduate school, because they have hardly been separated since.

The couple has been married for 18 years and has been blessed with three sons: Judah is 12 years old; Leo is 9 and Thomas is 6.

Dr. Brown was born in Oak Lawn, Ill., but has lived all over the country. He earned a Bachelor of Arts of Music in classical percussion performance from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Mich.

After earning his undergraduate degree, he decided that music would not be his life's work. He was very interested in religion and went to work in campus ministry at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich. and also later at the University of Evansville in Evansville, Ind. It was during this time that he discovered how much he enjoyed working with college students. The discovery helped him to decide that his future would be spent as a professor.

He enrolled in graduate school at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky., where he met the woman he would marry one year later. After graduating from Western Kentucky the couple moved to St. Louis, Mo., where Dr. Brown earned his doctorate in philosophy at Saint Louis University.

Dr. Brown was recently promoted to full professor status

in the Department of History and Philosophy.

Along with his teaching responsibilities at UTM, he also serves on the Faculty Senate, has taught courses at Tennessee Governor's School for the Humanities for the past nine years and serves as the adviser to the Students for Life student organization. The last two years he has gone to Washington D.C. to participate in a protest march on the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade with his priest and a group of students.

Dr. Brown is also a published author. His book "Aquinas and the Ship of Theseus: Solving Puzzles about Material Objects" is available for purchase, and he is currently working on a second book about St. Thomas Aquinas on human happiness in heaven. He was awarded a Hal and Alma Reagan Leave for the Spring semester and plans to spend the time working on his current book.

Dr. Brown's hobbies include: reading, listening, playing and collecting music, especially jazz; serving as a cantor at his church; playing in the Martin Community Band this past summer; playing the drums in The House Band and playing disc golf.

Merry Brown was born in Bakersfield, Calif. She earned a Bachelor of Arts of Philosophy and Psychology degree from Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, Calif., and a Master of Arts in Humanities degree from Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky.

Brown married during her second year at Western Kentucky University and upon graduation moved to St. Louis, Mo. While living in St. Louis, Mo., she gave birth to her first child, Judah. Her two younger sons were both born in Martin.

Along with her teaching responsibilities at UTM, Brown also serves as the adviser to the Philosophy Forum student organization and teaches a seminar at the Tennessee Governor's School for the Humanities.

Merry Brown is also a published author of two young-adult-romance novels with a paranormal twist. Her first published book was "The Knowers," and her second was "Gold Manor Ghost House."

"I never thought I would write a book. I was not interested. In fact, I am mildly dyslexic, so writing is difficult and editing is horrible. But, I just had this idea that I could write it and I just did," Merry Brown said.

She enjoys writing, reading, spending time with friends, doing creative projects around the house, watching movies and Pinterest. In graduate school she played the guitar and wrote songs with a friend of hers.

Her first book was born from a love for her boys, and a need to provide them with a better role model of how a young man should act, rather than the one that today's society is providing.

"I wanted to write a love story for my boys. I wanted to write a character that was good despite horrible circumstances. Someone that met people who were even better morally and that was attractive, good and interesting and they changed him and helped him love in a real way, instead of just being drawn in by base attraction."

"I wanted to write something to where my boys could envision for themselves being this good and girls could imagine that they could expect a guy to be this way," Merry Brown said.

She meets three times a week with fellow book author Lisa Smartt to discuss the book



Dr. Chris Brown, professor of Philosophy, and Merry Brown, lecturer in Philosophy, stand in front of their home in Martin. | **Pacer Photo / Sheila Scott**

business and work on writing their books.

People don't often recognize the value of something when they are enjoying it. Sometimes it is not recognized until it is taken away or someone else points out the item's value.

"Very few human beings have had the opportunity to receive a university education. So, take advantage of this gift," Dr. Brown said.

Go to the photo gallery "The Browns" at [www.thepacer.net](http://www.thepacer.net) to

view more photos of the Browns and their children.

Go to videos "Brown" at [www.thepacer.net](http://www.thepacer.net) to watch a video of Brown explaining her writing process to the Obion County Public Library Youth Book Club in Union City, Tenn.

Go to videos "The House Band Performs at The Looking Glass" at [www.thepacer.net](http://www.thepacer.net) to watch a video of The House Band's recent performance at The Looking Glass in Martin.



# Sports

## Coaches' Corner: Phil McNamara proud of career move to UTM

**Justin Glover**

Staff Writer

The Skyhawks' women's soccer team, led by fourth-year head coach Phil McNamara, has had something of a penchant for victory over the last few seasons.

Despite the team's rocky start, McNamara isn't overly concerned.

"Well, we've had a very difficult schedule, so it's actually difficult to really get a good idea of where we're at," McNamara said.

"We have a win-loss record that's the same as what we had this time last year ... I think we've played some very good teams very close."

In the season opener, UTM was able to keep perennial powerhouse Oklahoma State from scoring until the 85th minute and kept 20th-ranked Denver off the board for 75 minutes during the Denver Invitational. McNamara said the team's slow start is in part because of their relative inexperience and lack of depth.

"We are not as talented nor as deep as we were last year, or experienced ... I still have a lot of belief that we will be there, or there roundabouts in the top part of the league and that will give us an opportunity, hopefully, to attain the same level of success that we've had the last couple of seasons," McNamara said.

McNamara's team made the NCAA Tournament the past

two seasons, losing to Memphis in 2011 and losing to Kentucky during overtime in 2012. The team also claimed the program's first ever OVC Tournament championship in 2012 while also posting the highest winning percentage in school history at .659. The Skyhawks look to return to the NCAA Tournament again this year, but McNamara recognizes the road will be difficult.

"It puts a bit of a target on your back, no question," he said. "I think the league is better balanced this year, and some teams are off to a good start ... right now we're not the current favorite, I would say."

McNamara has certainly focused on the importance of technique during his tenure with the Skyhawks, but that's not all he teaches his players.

"Our lesson is to encourage the players to find the motivation and desire to reach that [higher] level of play," he said. "Then on a daily basis, it's 'Can we be the best that we can be?' and 'Can you perform to 100 percent of your potential?' and if you're doing that individually, that gives us a foundation to move forward as a team."

McNamara is in his 14th year as a head coach. Prior to becoming a coach McNamara played for several professional soccer teams, including spending four years with Cliftonville Football Club of the Northern Ireland Football League Premiership.

After his playing career was over, he became a youth coach for the Irish Football Association. McNamara eventually accepted a head coaching position at Virginia Intermont.

"I've often said to friends and associates in the game that coaching is the next best thing to being out there on the field," McNamara said. "You don't have the same control—good players feel like they always have control of the game ... It's a different feeling, a different emotion. I miss playing dearly, there's no question about that, but I had a lot of quality years with good teams ... I enjoyed my time playing, [and I] wouldn't change too much about my playing background."

After leaving VI, McNamara joined Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., where he spent eight years as head coach taking the Eagles to the NCAA Division II Tournament in each of his last seven years. After his tenure there ended, he accepted the position at UTM.

"UT Martin just offered the next level, basically. With Carson-Newman being a Division II school, I came close to winning a national title there on two occasions, [but] they just didn't have the resources to make that happen ... I felt like my career path needed a positive change. I don't regret for a minute coming to UTM," McNamara said.

## The Pacer Player of the Week

- Klenke, with her third shutout of the year against St. Louis, set a new UTM career record with 11 total shutouts in her career.
- She totaled seven saves.



Mariah Klenke

Photo Credit/Sports Information

## Skyhawks start OVC play against SEMO

**Bradley Stringfield**

Managing Editor, Online

Sports Editor

After starting the season 2-1, with both wins coming against ranked FCS opponents, UTM will start a six-game conference lineup when they travel to Southeast Missouri on Saturday, Sept. 28.

Following wins over University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, a team ranked No. 25, and University of Central Arkansas, a team that was ranked No. 7, many expected UTM to be ranked in the FCS Coaches Top-25.

After the team's win over Central Arkansas, Head Coach Jason Simpson said it would be a joke if his team wasn't ranked in the top 20. The team isn't, and Simpson isn't exactly laughing about it. Despite being snubbed by the FCS Coaches Poll, the team is currently ranked No. 24 in the Sports Network media.

With Dylan Favre solidifying the once questionable quarterback position, UTM could make some serious noise in

the OVC over the next few weeks and it all starts this weekend.

SEMO enters the contest with a record of 0-3 and has been outscored 39-112 so far this season.

"Well, just like any other team that is playing we have to stick to our alignments, assignments and technique," said SEMO offensive assistant and former record-setting Union City High School tailback, Josh Nicks. "[We have to be] mentally focused going into this game because, in this conference, the games are always close ... Whomever works the hardest during the week getting ready for the other team ... will have the upper hand."

After returning from their trip to Missouri, the Skyhawks will take on Jacksonville State in the homecoming game. The next week they will travel to Tennessee Tech for a Thursday night game before returning home to face Tennessee State.

While the Skyhawks made it through the first three games of the season with a 2-1 record they will have their hands full once they kickoff OVC play this weekend.

## Schedule from 9/25-10/8

Rodeo @ Missouri Valley 9/26 | Tennis @ Chattanooga Tournament 9/27-28 | Volleyball vs. SIUE 9/27

Soccer @ Austin Peay 9/27 | Equestrian @ Baylor 9/27-29 | Football @ SEMO 9/28 |

Volleyball @ EIU 9/28 | Rifle @ Ole Miss 9/28 | Rifle @ Memphis 9/29 | Soccer @ Murray State 9/29

Golf @ Southern Methodist 9/29 | Volleyball vs. SEMO 10/1 | Rodeo @ Murray State 10/3

Volleyball vs. Tennessee Tech 10/4 | Soccer vs. Jacksonville State 10/4

Football vs. Jacksonville State (Homecoming) 10/5 | Cross-Country @ Louisville 10/5

Golf @ Skyhawk Fall Classic 10/6 | Rifle vs. Murray State 10/6

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